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U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/807,178

Response filed August 6, 2007

Reply to OA dated May 16, 2007

REMARKS

Claims 1-3 and 5 are pending in this application, of which claims 1, 3 and 5 have been amended. Claim 4 has been canceled. No new claims have been added.

It is believed that this Amendment is fully responsive to the Office Action dated May 16, 2007. It is respectfully submitted that no new matter is entered.

Claim 1, as amended, recites a portable wireless terminal in which the first case and the second case are openably interconnected by a hinge mechanism. The front surface and the rear surface of the second case are provided with respective displays. The front surface of the first case has a pointing device projecting therefrom. The second case has an opening extending through the case for containing the pointing device. The opening has an inner peripheral wall to surround the entire pointing device.

Claim 5, as amended, recites a portable wireless terminal in which the first case and the second case are slidably interconnected by a sliding mechanism. The front surface of the second case is provided with a display. The front surface of the first case has a pointing device projecting therefrom. The second case has an opening extending through the case for containing the pointing device. The opening is formed by a notch having a U-shaped opening opposed to the pointing device.

Claims 1-5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sassi (U. S. Patent No. 6,487,396) in view of Kang et al. (U. S. Patent No. 7,146,197). Reconsideration and removal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

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The Office Action alleges that Sassi teaches a portable wireless terminal comprising a first case (2), a second case (3) provided with a display (5a, 6a), and an interconnecting mechanism (4) for interconnecting the two cases (2, 3), the second case (3) connecting to the first case (2) by the interconnecting mechanism (4) so that the second case (3) is closable to a first posture wherein at least a part area of front surface of the first case (2) is covered and is openable to a second posture wherein the part area is exposed, the display (5a, 6a) being arranged at a position such that the display is exposed regardless of whether the second case (3) is set to the first posture or to the second posture, the part area having a pointing device (7a) for an input manipulation on a display (6a), the second case (3) having an opening extending through the case from the front surface thereof to the rear surface thereof at the position opposed to the pointing device (7a) when in the first posture (see figures 1-2; column 4, lines 17-36 and column 5, lines 25-65).

It is respectfully submitted that in Sassi, as apparent from FIG. 2, the pointing device (7a) is attached to the second case (3) with a display (6a), and an opening for containing the pointing device (7a) is also provided in the second case (3).

In contrast, in the present invention, as apparent from FIGS. 1 and 4, the pointing device (4) is attached to the first case (1) without a display. The pointing device attached position is distinct to that of Sassi. Thus, in Sassi, the pointing device (7a) does not come out of the opening when both cases are opened, whereas in the present invention, the pointing device comes out of the opening when both cases are opened (see FIGS. 1 and 4).

Applicants respectfully submit that the positional relationship between the pointing device

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(7a) and opening in Sassi and the positional relationship between the pointing device (4) and opening in the present invention is being misinterpreted.

Although Sassi discloses that the pointing device (7) may be mounted on the first case (2), it is only disclosed that "the control part 7a is arranged at openings formed on the inner surface 2a and the outer surface 2b of the first housing part 2" (see column, 5, lines 58-65 of Sassi). It is respectfully submitted that there is no disclosure or suggestion of providing the first case (2) with an opening into which the pointing device (7) extends when the two cases are closed.

Additionally, component (7a) of Sassi is described as being a "control part" and it is shown in detail in Fig. 1a. Sassi does not disclose or suggest an "opening" as presently claimed.

The Office Action further alleges that Kang et al. teaches a portable wireless terminal comprising a first case (10), a second case (20) and a pointing device (310) projecting from the front surface of the first case (10) (see FIGS. 1-2; column 4, lines 29-52).

It is respectfully submitted that Kang et al. fails to teach or suggest that the front surface of the first case has a pointing device projecting therefrom, that the second case has an opening extending through the case for containing the pointing device, and that the opening has an inner peripheral wall to surround the entire pointing device, as in the portable wireless terminal of claim 1, as amended, of the instant application.

Further, Kang fails to teach or suggest the positional relationship between the pointing device and opening in a device in which the first case and the second case are slidably interconnected by a sliding mechanism, as recited in claim 5, as amended, of the instant application.

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Thus, even if Sassi is modified with the teaching of Kang et al., this would not provide the positional relationship between the pointing device (4) and opening as in the present invention.

In view of the amendments to Claims 1-5 and the above remarks, removal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

In view of the aforementioned amendments and accompanying remarks, claims 1-3 and 5, as amended, are in condition for allowance, which action, at an early date, is requested.

If, for any reason, it is felt that this application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact the applicants undersigned attorney at the telephone number indicated below to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

In the event that this paper is not timely filed, the applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. Please charge any fees for such an extension of time and any other fees which may be due with respect to this paper, to Deposit Account No. 01-2340.

Respectfully submitted,

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